Chapter 47
Look for My Daddy

REALLY?
WANNA HELP ME?
I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO...
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON COMING WITH ME EVERYWHERE?
SFX: PFFT
WELL, NO CUSTOMERS TODAY EITHER... LET'S GO
...
NOT AT ALL...
...
...
©PX FOOTSTEPS

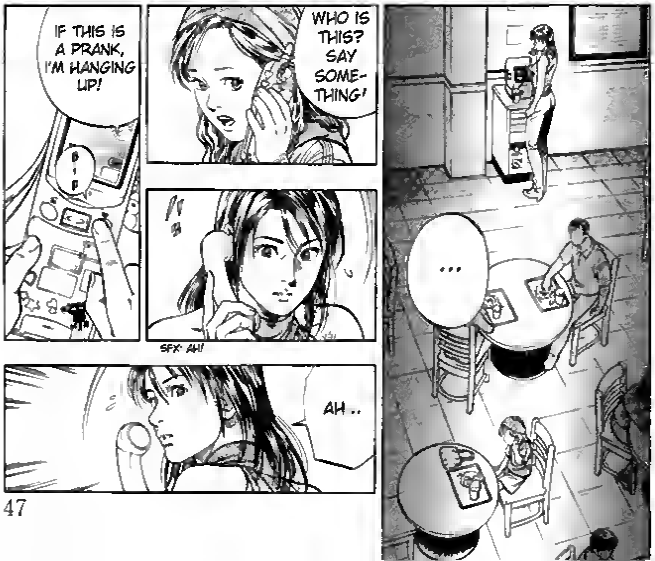
!!
XYZ
090372IXXXX
ERH...
AH...
HMM?
R-RYO-PAPA!
NO... NOTHING
...
DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE!
AH-SHAN?
I HAVE SOME ERRANDS TO RUN! DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME!

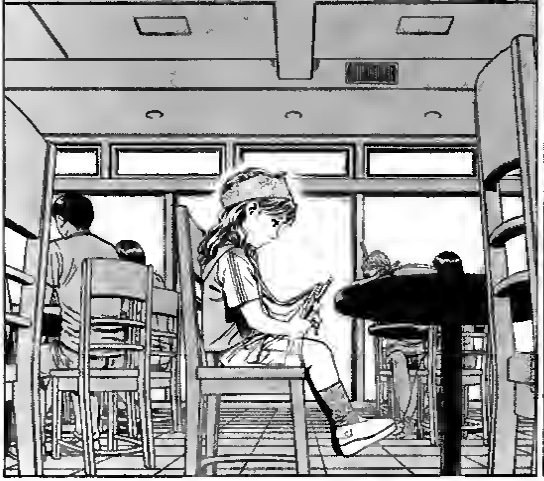
STARBACCHUS COFFEE
...
XYZ
09C 372
SFX: PFFT
IT'S HERE? THE XYZ NOTE WAS WRITTEN ON A RECEIPT FROM THIS COFFEE SHOP.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE CUSTOMER ALWAYS COMES HERE
OR THAT THEY'LL BE HERE TODAY
HELLO. MAY I TAKE YOUR ORDER?

OH... ONE COFFEE, PLEASE.
HOW ABOUT TODAY'S SPECIAL? IT'S A CAPPUCINO.
OR, IF YOU WANT AN EXPRESSO, WE HAVE MANY CHOICES. EXPRESSO MACCIATO, EXPRESSO CON PANNA, EXPRESSO-
J-JUST CAPPU-CINO!
OKAY, WHAT SIZE?
I, UH... REGULAR?
WE HAVE THREE SIZES: SHORT, TALL AND GRANDE.
SHORT? GRANDE?
SHE'LL HAVE A TALL, PLEASE.
ALRIGHT, MISS.
HEY, ARE YOU GONNA CAMP HERE ALL DAY? 'CAUSE THERE'S A LINE BACKING UP BEHIND YOU.

A GRANDE CARAMEL FRAPPUCINO, A MORTADELLA BRIOCHE SANDWICH AND A GENOVA SHRIMP WRAP, PLEASE.
GO BACK TO YOUR CAVE.
YOU CAN'T EVEN ORDER AT STARBACCUS? SO UNCOOL..
IT WOULD BE BEST TO CALL THIS NUMBER.
Brrins
Piripiri... Piripiri...
CALL
PUBLIC PHONE
DIGITAL
D2091
...
Piripiri... Piripiri...

'ELLO?
!!
THIS GIRL!?


IF THIS IS A PRANK, I'M HANGING UP!
P-P-P
WHO IS THIS? SAY SOME-THING!
SFX: AH!
AH ..
...



OOH, WHAT LOVELY STICKERS. AND SUCH A NICE CELL PHONE, TOO.

SUCH SAD EYES...
EVEN FOR A GIRL SO YOUNG...

SFX: GRIN, GRIN
...
COULD I TAKE A LOOK AT IT? I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THESE STICKERS IN RETURN.

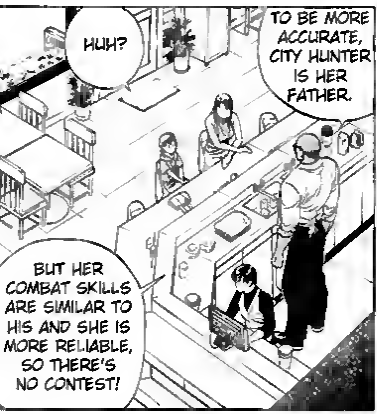
SHOW IT TO ME!!
!!
SFX: SHWUP
GET LOST!
SFX: CLICK
SFX: GRAB!
SFX: PWEEEEE!
SFX: SHAK

GAH!
WHA? H-HEY YOU...!
SFX: FWEEE
LOSER.
...
A-ARE YOU... OKAY?
OH! IT'S...
...

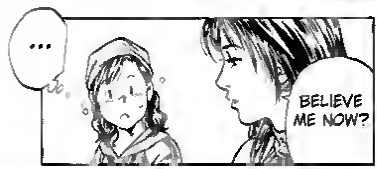
HUH? NO...
I MEAN, CITY HUNTER CALLING FROM A PUBLIC PHONE? SO UNCOOL.
SO... YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A CELL PHONE?
...?
...
ゴク...
SFX: GULP
O-OF COURSE I AM!
AND YOU'RE A GIRL. ARE YOU REALLY THE ONE?
SFX: HUMMING
...
DON'T YOU KNOW? YOU DRINK THROUGH THE HOLE.
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO REMOVE THE LID.

I'M NEW IN TOWN.
IT'S JUST THAT...
I KNEW IT. YOU ARE A FAKE. CITY HUNTER, A GIRL NOT KNOWING THE CITY OR STARBACCUS? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
YOU'RE MISTAKEN. I AM CITY HUNTER.
...
...
SFX: ZUM!
SHE IS CITY HUNTER!
ずん!
?
SFX: SLAM
I CAN PROVE I'M CITY HUNTER! COME WITH ME!

...


HUH?
TO BE MORE ACCURATE, CITY HUNTER IS HER FATHER.
BUT HER COMBAT SKILLS ARE SIMILAR TO HIS AND SHE IS MORE RELIABLE, SO THERE'S NO CONTEST!

R-REALLY?
YES!
SFX: ZU-UM


...
BELIEVE ME NOW?

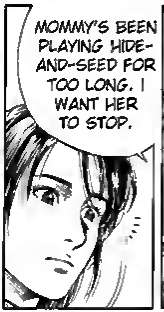
NO IDEA. MAYBE SHE'S TAKING AN INTEREST IN RYO'S WORK.
WHAT THE HELL IS SHANIN PLAYING AT?

Y-YEAH!
LIKE I'M GONNA ARGUE WITH A GUY THAT BIG?

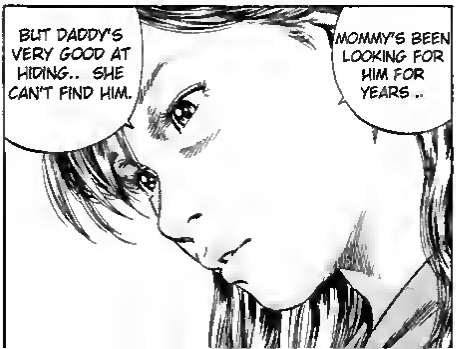
NO! THAT'S NOT IT...
YOU WANTED ME TO PROTECT YOU FROM THAT BAD MAN. I SHOULD HAVE CAUGHT HIM.

THE MISSION WAS IT THAT MAN FROM BEFORE?

I... FAILED.


MOMMY'S BEEN PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEED FOR TOO LONG. I WANT HER TO STOP.

...


BUT DADDY'S VERY GOOD AT HIDING.. SHE CAN'T FIND HIM.
MOMMY'S BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM FOR YEARS ..

WITH MY DADDY..
PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK.. WITH WHO?
!?

I WANT TO HELP HER, BUT I DON'T KNOW DADDY'S FACE BECAUSE THEY WERE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEE BEFORE I WAS BORN...
MOMMY ALWAYS ACTS LIKE EVERYTHING'S OKAY... BUT AT NIGHT, SHE CRIES WHEN SHE'S ALONE... I'M SURE SHE'S SAD BECAUSE SHE CAN'T FIND MY DADDY.
...
YOU WANT ME TO FIND YOUR DAD?
SFX FWUP
HIDE-AND-SEEK?
HER MOM PROBABLY MADE THAT UP TO AVOID EXPLAINING THAT HER DAD RAN OFF.
TELL ME EVERYTHING.
NO.. BUT MOMMY DESCRIBED HIM TO ME.
DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE?

HE'S CALLED 'SHINJUKO'S ONE-NIGHT WOLF' AND HIS FAVORITE WORD IS BONER*.
HE'S FORTY, BUT ACTS MUCH YOUNGER... HIS HAIR'S A MESS, HE'S HANDSOME AND HAS A CHILDISH NATURE
LET'S SEE... HE'S TALL... MUSCULAR... ALWAYS WEARS THE SAME JACKET OVER THE SAME T-SHIRT...
ERH...
ぽん。
ぽん。
SFX: POF
SFX: POF
NOTE: MONKORI = LIT. PITCHING A TENT
ぼ
ん
SFX: PO-OF
HELLO-OO, UMI-DEAR!
SFX: TING
...
HUH?
M-MAYBE HER FATHER IS CLOSER THAN WE THINK?

...
WHA?
IT'S MY DADDY!!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE MOMMY SAID!
ANY IDEAS, RYO-DEAR?
ZUH?
SFX: ZUM
BUH?
RYO-PAPA I HAVE A LITTLE SISTER?
SFX: ZUM
THIS GUY... ROTTEN TO THE CORE.
ANY IDEAS? I HAVE SO MANY IT MAKES IT HARD TO SORT THEM ALL OUT BESIDES, THIS HAS HAPPENED MANY TIMES BEFORE.
WOW
HA HA! HA! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GUH?

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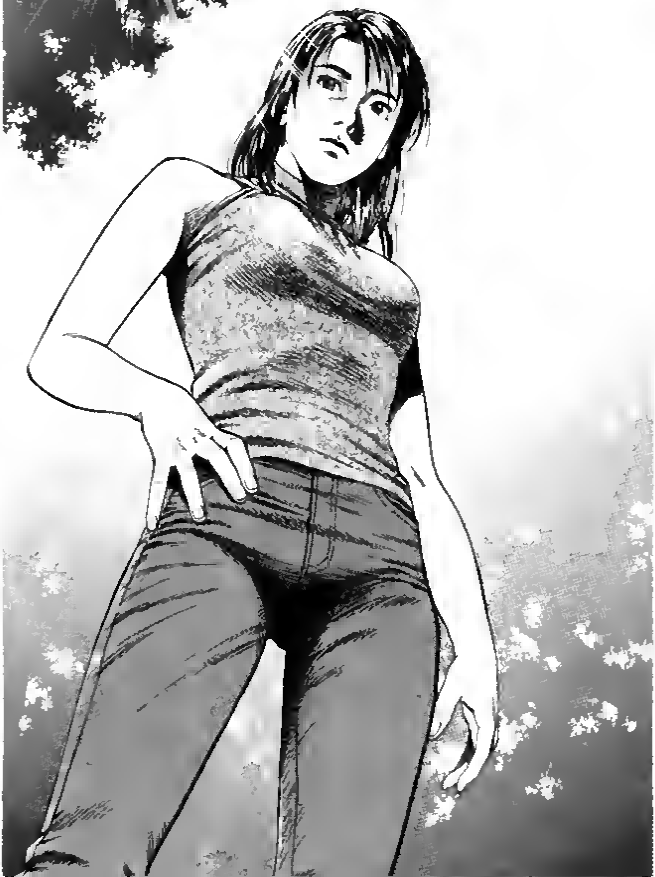
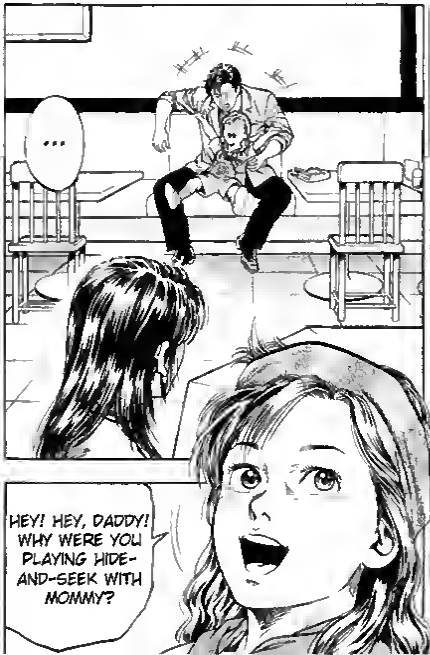
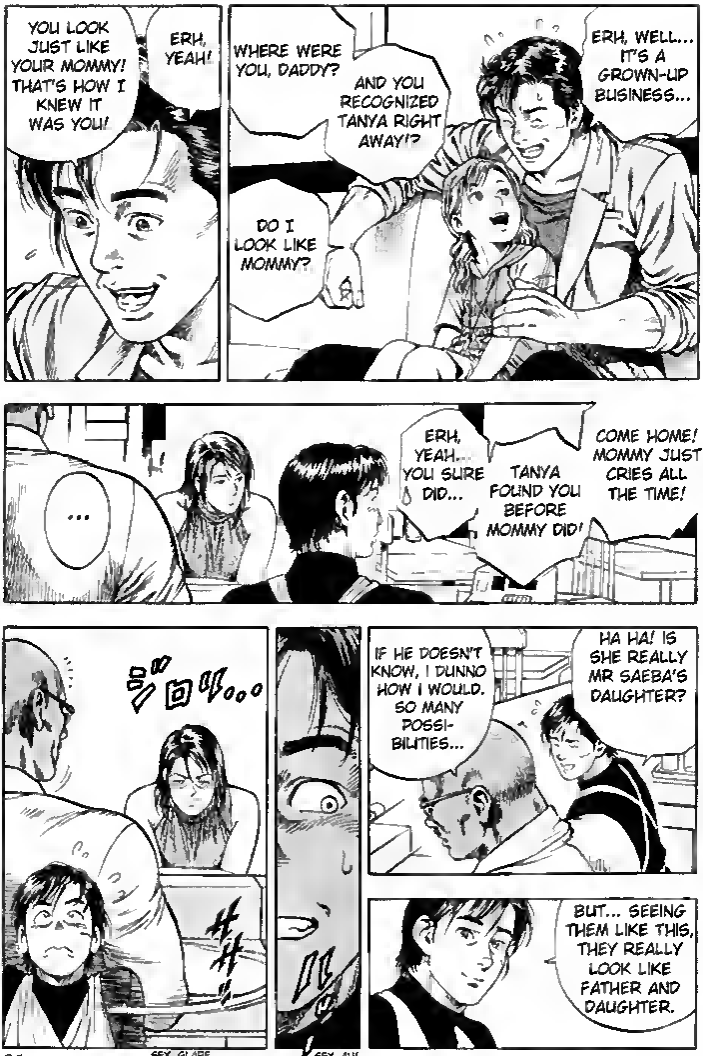
Chapter 48
Portrait of a Father



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST CASE!
IT'S TERRIFIC!
YOU SOLVED YOUR CASE THE SAME DAY YOU GOT IT! COME ON! CELEBRATE!


...
HEY! HEY, DADDY! WHY WERE YOU PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH MOMMY?

...


YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR MOMMY! THAT'S HOW I KNEW IT WAS YOU!
ERH, YEAH!
WHERE WERE YOU, DADDY?
AND YOU RECOGNIZED TANYA RIGHT AWAY!?
DO I LOOK LIKE MOMMY?
ERH, WELL... IT'S A GROWN-UP BUSINESS...
...
ERH, YEAH... YOU SURE DID...
TANYA FOUND YOU BEFORE MOMMY DID!
COME HOME! MOMMY JUST CRIES ALL THE TIME!
SFX: GLARE
SFX: SWISH
SFX: AH!
IF HE DOESN'T KNOW, I DUNNO HOW I WOULD. SO MANY POSSI-BILITIES...
HA HA! IS SHE REALLY MR SAEBA'S DAUGHTER?
BUT... SEEING THEM LIKE THIS, THEY REALLY LOOK LIKE FATHER AND DAUGHTER.

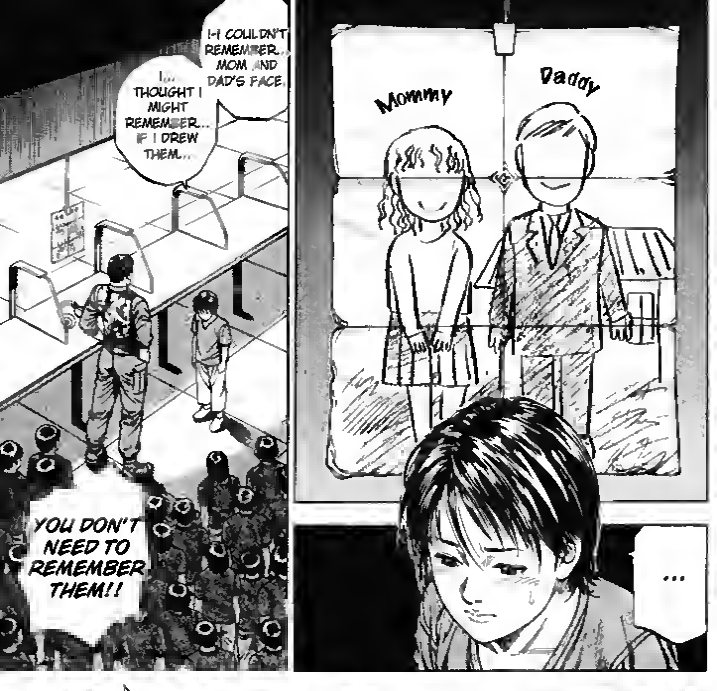
SFX: TSS
...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S STRANGE...
USUALLY, KAORI'S PERSONALITY WOULD TAKE OVER AND WOULD ALMOST KILL RYO.
HUH?
I'M JUST SURPRISED THAT SHANIN CAN WATCH THEM WITHOUT THAT MURDEROUS AURA.
DAD'S... DAY... AT YOUR SCHOOL?
IN TIME FOR THIS! IT'S NEXT SATURDAY!
IN TIME? IN TIME FOR WHAT?
I'M SO HAPPY I FOUND YOU IN TIME!
SFX: FLIP
SFX: RUSTLE

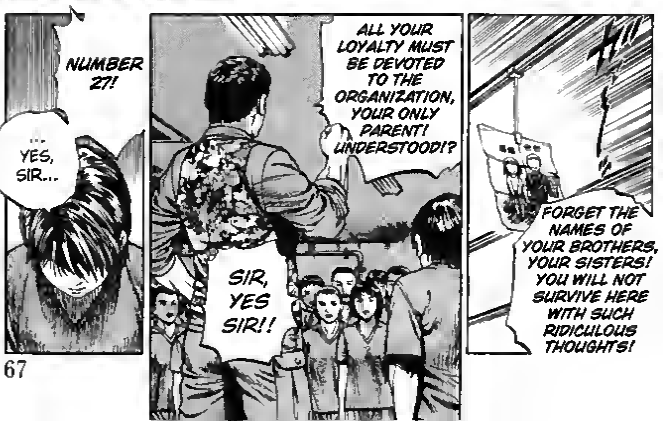
SFX: GRIN
UH-HUH...
YOU'LL BE THERE, RIGHT?
I GOTTA GO POTTY
...
...
SFX: GLARE
OUP! THERE'S THE MURDEROUS AURA!
HEH HEH HEH..
EH...

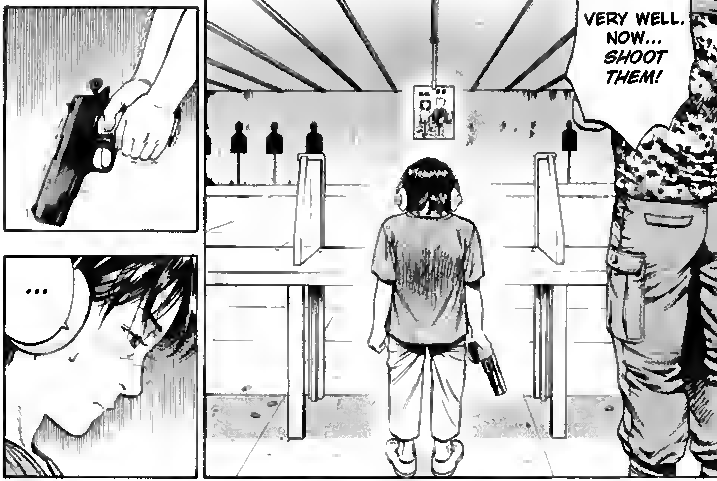
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TELL HER?
I CAN'T DO THAT...
YOU SAW HOW HAPPY SHE WAS.
...
SHE'S PROBABLY NOT MY DAUGHTER
...
THERE'S A WAITRESS AT CLUB CARNIVAL IN SECTOR ONE AND SHE BEARS QUITE A RESEMBLANCE TO THIS BRAT. IT'S PROBABLY HER.
IF WE WANT TO FIND OUT IF I'M THE GIRL'S FATHER, I'LL HAVE TO MEET HER MOTHER..
ANY IDEA WHO IT MIGHT BE?
TANYA.. THAT'S A RUSSIAN NAME...
AH! KAORI MODE!!
TELL ME YOU DIDN'T HAVE A KID WITH THIS WOMAN, RYO!!

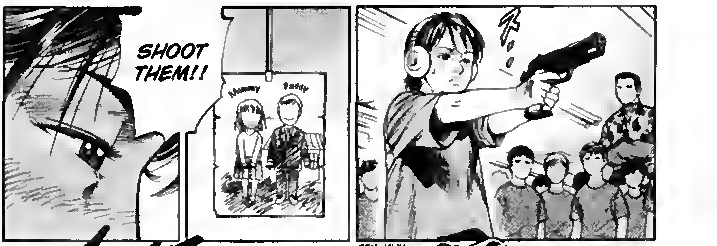
DADDY!
SFX: SCREAM
...
N-NO! DON'T SAY THAT! I WON'T GO ANYWHERE!
I WAS SO SCARED! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE AGAIN!
SFX: HUG
MOMMY WILL BE SO HAPPY WHEN I TAKE YOU TO MEET HER!

DURING DAD'S DAY AT SCHOOL, WE ALL GET TO DRAW A PICTURE OF OUR DADDY'S.
...
WHY ARE YOU HIDING THIS DRAWING, NUMBER 27?
REALLY? I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT.
IT'LL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT TANYA DREW HER DADDY! TANYA'S REALLY GOOD AT DRAWING!
YEP! I DRAW REALLY WELL!

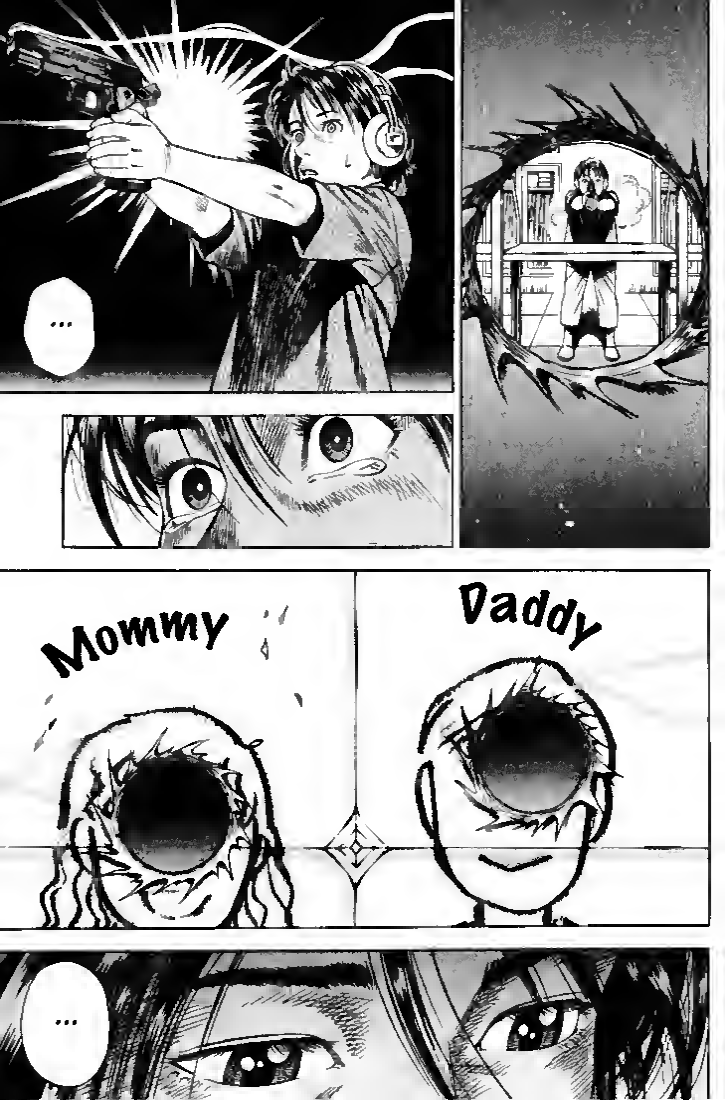

I-I COULDN'T REMEMBER... MOM AND DAD'S FACE.
I... THOUGHT I MIGHT REMEMBER... IF I DREW THEM...
YOU DON'T NEED TO REMEMBER THEM!!
Mommy
Daddy
...


NUMBER 27!
... YES, SIR...
ALL YOUR LOYALTY MUST BE DEVOTED TO THE ORGANIZATION, YOUR ONLY PARENT! UNDERSTOOD!?
SIR, YES SIR!!
H!!
FORGET THE NAMES OF YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR SISTERS! YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE HERE WITH SUCH RIDICULOUS THOUGHTS!


VERY WELL. NOW... SHOOT THEM!
...


SHOOT THEM!!
Mommy
Daddy
SFX KLIK

SFX BLAM! BLAM!


...
Mommy
Daddy
...

AT THE BAR!? THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA. .
...
MOMMY'S AWAKE NOW, SO SHE'LL BE AT THE BAR.
WHAT!? WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE HOUSE?
SFX: HNN?
HUH ..?
YOUR TAB...?
WHY?
WHY?? HEH HEH . !. UH, DIDN'T PAY MY TAB THAT'S WHY I CAN'T GO THERE...
I DON'T SPEND ALL THE LUNCH MONEY MOMMY GIVES ME, SO I HAVE SOME SAVINGS!
SFX: RUSTLE
HUH? BUH...! Y-YEAH.. THAT WAS IT!
I GET IT! THAT'S WHY YOU WERE PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK!
THEN TANYA WILL PAY IT FOR YOU!

I WANTED TO USE IT TO BUY A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR MOMMY
AND ALSO... TO GET ONE FOR YOU, DADDY!
HERE! THIS IS YOUR SHARE! YOU CAN USE IT ALL!
TANYA...

TANYA... YOU ARE SO ADORABLE
...
SFX: HUG
HUH?
UH... MISS?

…

マイルドセブン
Club
Cambodia

I'LL GO GET MOMMY!
OKAY (BE DISCREET!)
DON'T GO AWAY, NOW!
NO,NO! I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE
RYO-PAPA
SFX: SIGH
CAN I... KEEP THIS JOB?

BUT WHEN WE TAKE A JOB, WE SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END. THAT'S OUR MOTTO!
SFX: FFF
I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO SAY THIS...
BUT...
R-RIGHT!
(YOU BROUGHT THAT UP ON PURPOSE!)
AND YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE AFTER-SALES DEPARTMENT.
WELL... WE DON'T HAVE TO BRING THEM INTO THIS...
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT I HAVE MORE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SHINJUKU.

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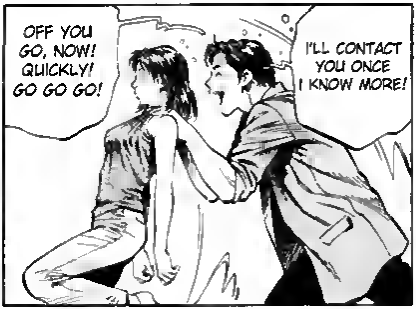
Chapter 49: Tanya's True Smile

マイルドバンチ
Club Carnival
インターネットカフェ
I DIDN'T KNOW IRINA HAD A DAUGHTER!
SHE NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT IT... (CRYO-DEAR IS SAD!)
WELL, SHE LOOKS LIKE TANYA...
WHAT IS SHE LIKE?
TANYA'S MOTHER, IRINA...
IF YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION, YOU SHOULD BE GATHERING INFORMATION ON TANYA'S FATHER INSTEAD OF HANGING AROUND WITH ME...
SPK: AHEM!
SAY... ARE YOU SURE IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU TO STAY WITH ME?
THAT'S WHY I CAME.
FAT AND OLD! YOU WOULDN'T KNOW SHE'S A HOSTESS BY LOOKING AT HER! HA HA...
I-I MEAN, SHE USED TO LOOK LIKE TANYA, BEFORE SHE GOT FAT!

I'M GETTING OLDER, SO THE PHYSICAL PART WILL BE LEFT TO YOU. I'LL GATHER THE INFORMATION. FROM NOW ON, WE'LL DO IT THAT WAY

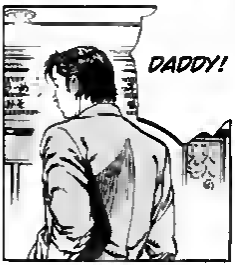
NO, NO! LET ME EXPLAIN. YOU LET ME HANDLE THIS. WE HAVE TO SHARE THE WORK!
I'LL ASK TANYA'S MOTHER TO DESCRIBE THE FATHER TO ME

...?

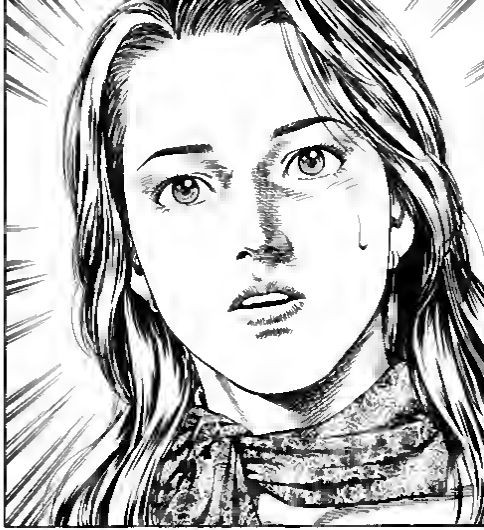

OFF YOU GO, NOW! QUICKLY! GO GO GO!
I'LL CONTACT YOU ONCE I KNOW MORE!

DADDY! I BROUGHT MOMMY!

SFX: PHEW!


DADDY!

SEE, MOMMY? IT'S DADDY! TANYA DID FIND HIM!
DADDY DID COME BACK!
...



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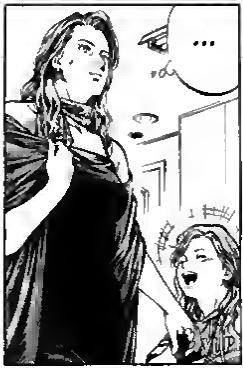

...

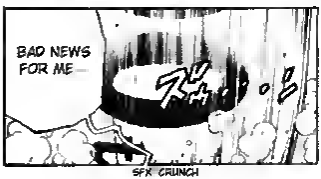
HI, IRINA

SOMETHING PRECIOUS!? I'LL GO RIGHT AWAY!
TANYA, COULD YOU GO GET MOMMY'S PURSE? I HAVE SOMETHING FOR DADDY IN IT.

...
IT'S NOT NICE, IRINA. ASKING A KID TO HELP YOU? THAT'S AGAINST THE HIDE-AND-SEEK RULES.
MISTER SAEBA...
SFX: AH!
SFX: WHAM!!
SO... OLD AND FAT, HUH RYO?
YOU... DIDN'T LEAVE YET?
SFX: GULP
SFX: HMM?

...!

W-WHY DID I COME BACK? AND WHY DID SEEING TANYA'S MOTHER MAKE ME MAD?
SFX SWUP


BAD NEWS FOR ME—
SFX CRUNCH

I THOUGHT SO SHE INHERITED KAORI'S PERSONALITY AND INTUITION.
PFF... OW...
SFX DEBRIS FALLING

Zzz...

TANYA WAS ALWAYS ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT HER FATHER. YOU WERE COMING IN HERE ALL THE TIME, SO I JUST STARTED DESCRIBING YOU TO HER..
WELL...
OH, MY HEAD
I'M SORRY, MR SAEBA.
GRR...
SFX KOFF! KOFF!
SO WHY DON'T WE JUST MAKE IT OFFICIAL?
IT DOESN'T MATTER! RYO-DEAR FEELS LIKE HE BECAME YOUR HUSBAND, IRINA!
I'M HIS DAUGHTER!
OH... WELL... YOU KNOW. HER NAME IS SHANIN.. SHE'S .. UH..
SO, WHO IS THIS YOUNG GIRL?
SEE? SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WASN'T THE FATHER?
...

N-NO, SHE'S ONLY 15! REALLY!
OH! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH AN OLD DAUGHTER!
KATSUMI... MY FIANCE DISAPPEARED FOR BOTH OUR SAKES.
I... USED TO BE ENGAGED...
WHAT ABOUT YOU? HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED?
WELL...
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IT WAS SIX YEARS AGO. A POLITICIAN'S PERSONAL SECRETARY WAS ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLING FUNDS ASSIGNED FOR THE R COUNTRY HUMANITARIAN AID AND HE FLED.
...
KARA-HASHI...
THAT RINGS A BELL.
KATSUMI KARAHASHI
WHAT'S HIS FAMILY NAME?

HE IS NOT A CRIMINAL!
HE WOULD OFTEN COME HERE FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS. THAT'S HOW WE ENDED UP FALLING IN LOVE.
THE MAN HE USED TO WORK FOR.. THE DEPUTY TADAOMI KISHIMOTO...
HE WAS USED. THAT'S ALL.
THAT MAN IS TRULY CORRUPT.
T. KISHIMOTO
IT'S PITIFUL, REALLY...

I-I'M SORRY, SIR.
YOU CAN'T EVEN STEAL A LITTLE GIRL'S CELL PHONE?

I COULDN'T HAVE GUESSED THAT SHE HAD A WHISTLE FOR PROTECTION.
BUT...

YES, SIR SORRY, SIR.
I HAVE NO PATIENCE FOR YOUR EXCUSES OUT!

IF IT'S NOT KURAHASHI, IT'S THIS FOOL. I'M SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS...

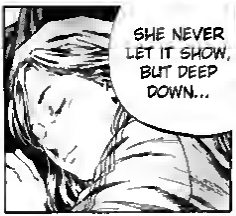
SOON, WE'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM, TOO.
SFX: DOOR SLAMMING

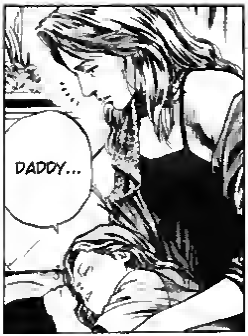
NOW THAT WE'VE PICKED UP THIS FAILURE'S TRAIL, I'D LIKE TO END THIS CASE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
OF COURSE, SIR...
I WAS CERTAIN WE COULD GET KURAHASHI'S LOCATION FROM HIS DAUGHTER'S CELL PHONE, BUT...
PFF! WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT STICK-IN-THE-MUD HAD A WIFE AND KID? HOW CUTE...
FORGET ABOUT THE SOFT SOAP.
SFX: PUFF PUFF
USE THEM AS YOU WISH, BUT I WANT RESULTS.
THE LIVES OF ONE OR TWO GIRLS ARE UNIMPORTANT.
SFX: STAB!

KATSUMI WAS CONSUMED BY DOUBT.
BUT...
TO DENOUNCE KISHIMOTO WITH THE HELP OF A COLLEAGUE.
HIS COLLEAGUE AND THE JOURNALIST WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO EXPOSE THE SCANDAL WERE MURDERED IN THE PLACE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET
SO HE DECIDED...
KISHIMOTO DID A LOT FOR HIM, BUT HE COULDN'T BEAR TO BE AN ACCOMPLICE TO THE THEFT OF PUBLIC MONEY
IN OTHER WORDS.. THE DEPUTY KNEW, DIDN'T HE?

KISHIMOTO'S SCHEMES WERE ABOUT TO BE EXPOSED BY THE MEDIA, SO HE USED IT. HE PLACED THE BLAME FOR THE CRIME ON KATSUMI'S SHOULDERS...
KATSUMI WAS SCARED THAT THE ASSASSINS WOULD TRY TO KILL ME, TOO. I WAS PREGNANT AT THE TIME... SO HE DECIDED TO DISAPPEAR...

SHE WANTS A FATHER


SHE NEVER LET IT SHOW, BUT DEEP DOWN...


DADDY...

...

I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU ANYMORE .. IT'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS..
NO... IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE
BUT THIS JOB ISN'T JUST ABOUT FINDING HER FATHER.
IMPOSS-IBLE!!
WHEN TANYA WAKES UP, I'LL TELL HER THE TRUTH. THEN. .
HEH... YEAH.
OUR MOTTO IS TO ALWAYS FINISH THE JOB AND TAKE CARE OF THE POST-SERVICE DEPARTMENT! RIGHT, RYO-PAPA?

THEN IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I HAVE A CHANCE TO GET INTIMATE WITH IRINA!! ♡
BUT... TANYA ALREADY THINKS OF ME AS HER DAD... IF IT STAYS THAT WAY..
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT!?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M SURE YOU WERE THINKING SOMETHING INAPPROPRIATE.
HOW DOES SHE DO THAT?
SFX: KRAK!
BUT WHEN THIS IS OVER, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY US.
ER...OKAY. HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST ME?
YES, PAY! IF YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF MY TAB HERE... I COULD COME BACK TO THIS BAR.
PAY YOU...?

THIS LITTLE GIRL... SHE'S JUST LIKE ME!
...
I HAVE SEEN TANYA'S TRUE SMILE. I WANT TO SEE THAT SMILE WHEN HER FATHER HOLDS HER IN HIS ARMS.
WHAT, NOW? HEY! SH-SHANIN!
ALRIGHT. I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS NOW.
ZUH? MUH?

HI HI!
I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO STOP BY. YOUR TAB IS JUST SLIGHTLY OVER ONE MILLION YEN!
BOSS! HEH... HEH HEH...

!!
SFX. GRAB

WELL, IF IT ISN'T RYO SAEBA! LONG TIME, NO SEE!
SFX. STEP

TANYA'S TRUE SMILE...
THAT SHALL BE MY REWARD...
DADDY...
UH WRONG NUMBER.
MR CHEN! FOR PITY'S SAKE LEND ME A MILLION YEN!

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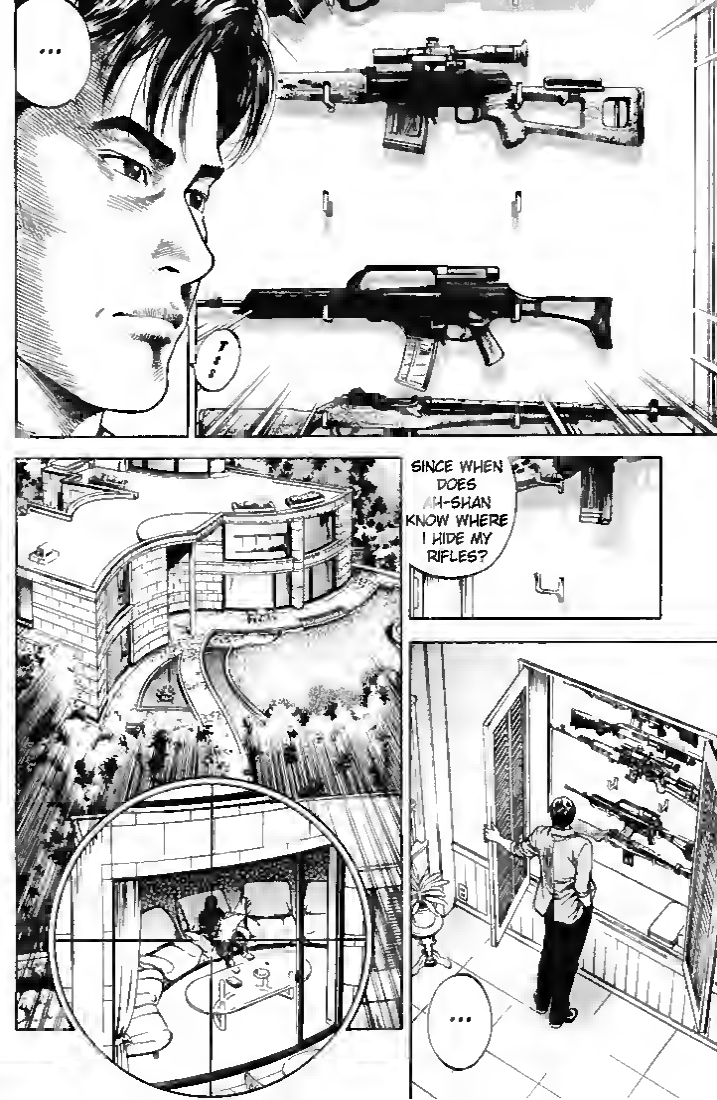
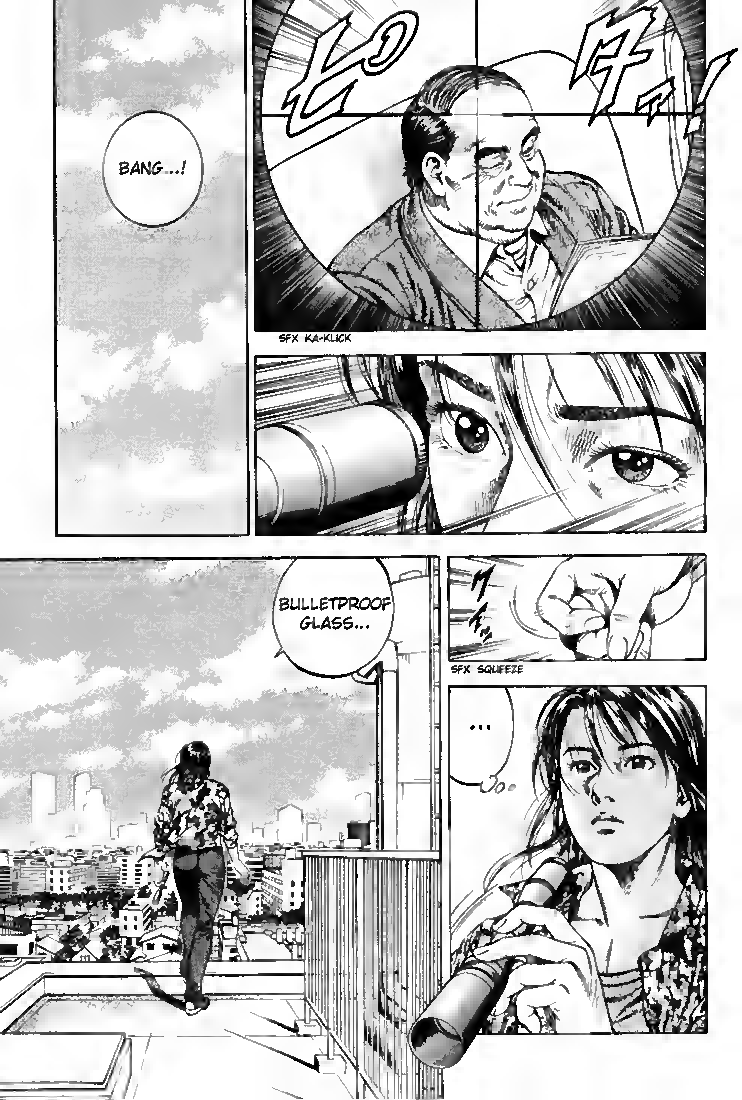
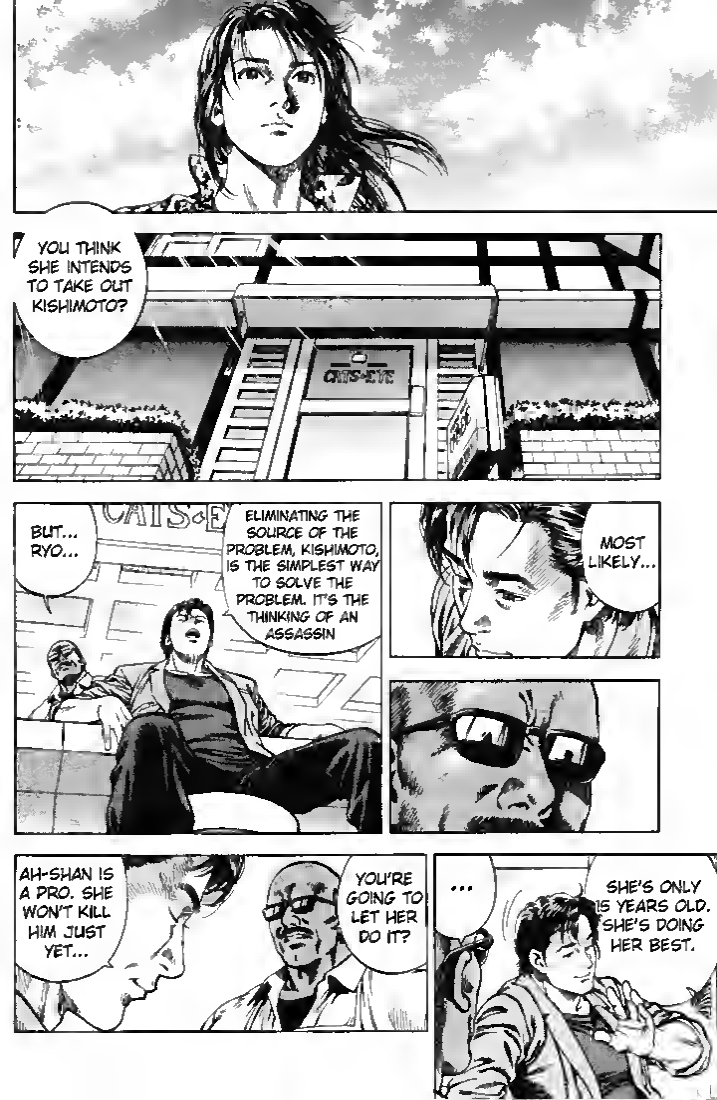
Chapter 50
Finishing the Shooting Preparations


...
!!
SINCE WHEN DOES AH-SHAN KNOW WHERE I HIDE MY RIFLES?
...


BANG...!
SFX KA-KLICK
BULLETPROOF GLASS...
SFX SQUEEZE
...


YOU THINK SHE INTENDS TO TAKE OUT KISHIMOTO?
CAT'S EYE
BUT... RYO...
ELIMINATING THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM, KISHIMOTO, IS THE SIMPLEST WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IT'S THE THINKING OF AN ASSASSIN
MOST LIKELY...
AH-SHAN IS A PRO. SHE WON'T KILL HIM JUST YET...
YOU'RE GOING TO LET HER DO IT?
...
SHE'S ONLY 15 YEARS OLD. SHE'S DOING HER BEST.

AND, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, AI-SHAN MIGHT HAVE ALREADY...
SHE'S GOT A TIME LIMIT DUE TO THIS SATURDAY'S HOLIDAY... I'M GUESSING 3 DAYS.
USUALLY, SHE WOULD NEED AT LEAST A WEEK TO FIND THE IDEAL POSITION FOR A SHOT, BUT...
...?
I SHOWED THIS PICTURE TO A FEW PHYSIOGNOMISTS AND I HAD THEM POKE AROUND. IT TOOK THEM LESS THAN A DAY
HERE. THIS IS WHAT YOU ASKED FOR.
SFX: SLIP
...
OH, YOU FOUND IT? UMI, YOU ARE THE INFORMATION KING!
YOU WERE RIGHT.

大勢の人間の中から 目的の人物を一目で見つけ出す(選別)技術。人
NOTE. PHYSIOGNOMY - DIVINATION BASED ON FACIAL FEATURES

I THOUGHT SO.. HE WAS LOOKING AFTER HER REAL CLOSE.
SFX: TAP TAP TAP
SFX: TAP TAP TAP
SO, WE'RE GOING?
IT'S TANYA
HEY.
DADDY! IT'S ME!
SFX: SLIP
SFX: DING!
YEAH...
YOU'RE HAVING FUN IN KINDER-GARTEN?

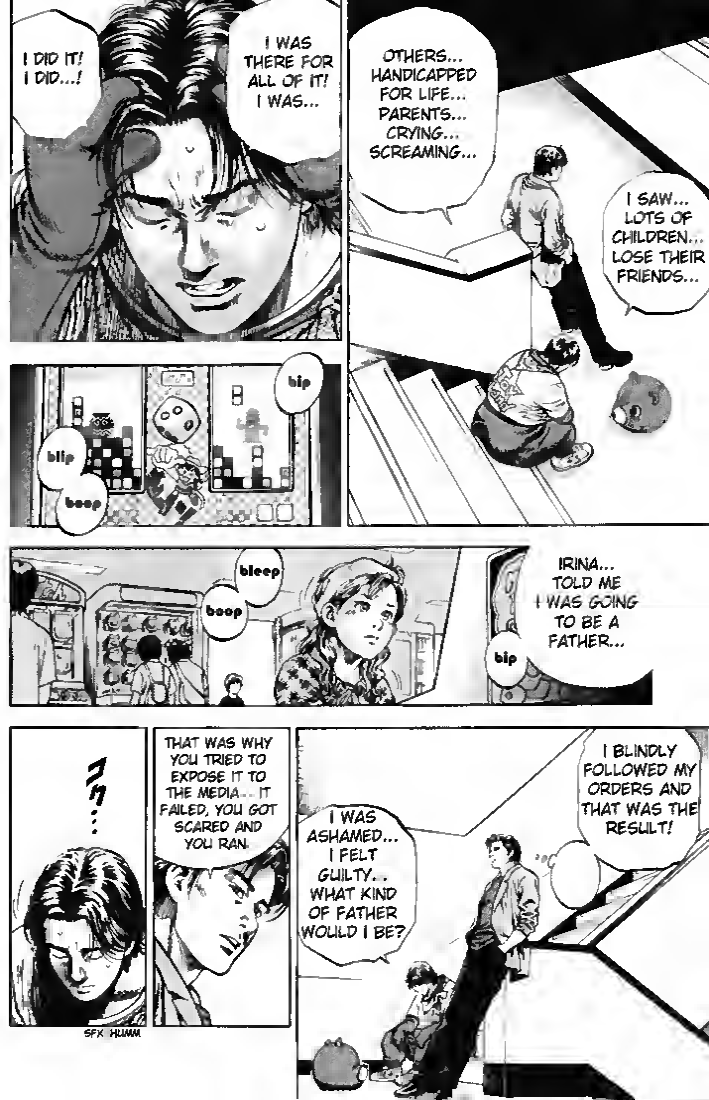
HEH HEH HEH...
GROWN-UPS ALWAYS USE WORK AS AN EXCUSE!
I JUST HAVE SOME ANNOYING WORK TO FINISH. ONCE IT'S DONE, OKAY?
SAY, DADDY? WHEN WILL YOU BE HOME FOR GOOD?
SFX: HUMPH
MISTER BEAR!
SFX: TAP TAP
LOOK! HE'S HERE!

I WANT TO INTRODUCE MY BEST FRIEND MR BEAR!
HE ALWAYS GIVE ME CAKE AND CANDIES WITH MY BALLOONS!
TODAY, I DIDN'T COME WITH MY MOMMY THIS IS...
MY DADDY!
SFX SLIP

TANYA, WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY AT THE ARCADE?
THEN I HAVE TO THANK HIM FOR BEING SO NICE TO YOU.
AWW...
I SEE...
ポン!
SFX: PLOP
OKAY, I PROMISE
OKAY, BUT YOU PLAY NICE! WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS!
YOU WANT TO PICK HER UP AND HOLD HER...
...

YOUR DAUGHTER, I MEAN.
TANYA IS OVER-JOYED JUST THINKING ABOUT DRAWING HER FATHER'S PICTURE ON DAD'S DAY AT SCHOOL.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, MISTER BEAR? OR SHOULD I SAY...
...
SFX: SHUF
SFX: SHUF
MISTER KATSUMI KURAHASHI?

HA HA HA!
HAH HAH!
I WAS THERE WHEN THAT TRAGEDY HAPPENED..
AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL OF THE R. COUNTY.
KISHIMOTO WAS IN CAHOOTS WITH A CROOKED LOCAL CONTRACTOR. HE TOLD HIM THE NATURE OF OTHER OFFERS TO WIN THE CONTRACT. THAT CONTRACTOR DID MOST OF THE WORK
IT WAS BUILT BECAUSE OF THE JAPANESE HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN.
...
BUT KISHIMOTO ALSO ORDERED HIM TO BOTCH THE JOB... THAT'S THE REAL REASON THE BUILDING COLLAPSED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION WAS DONE.

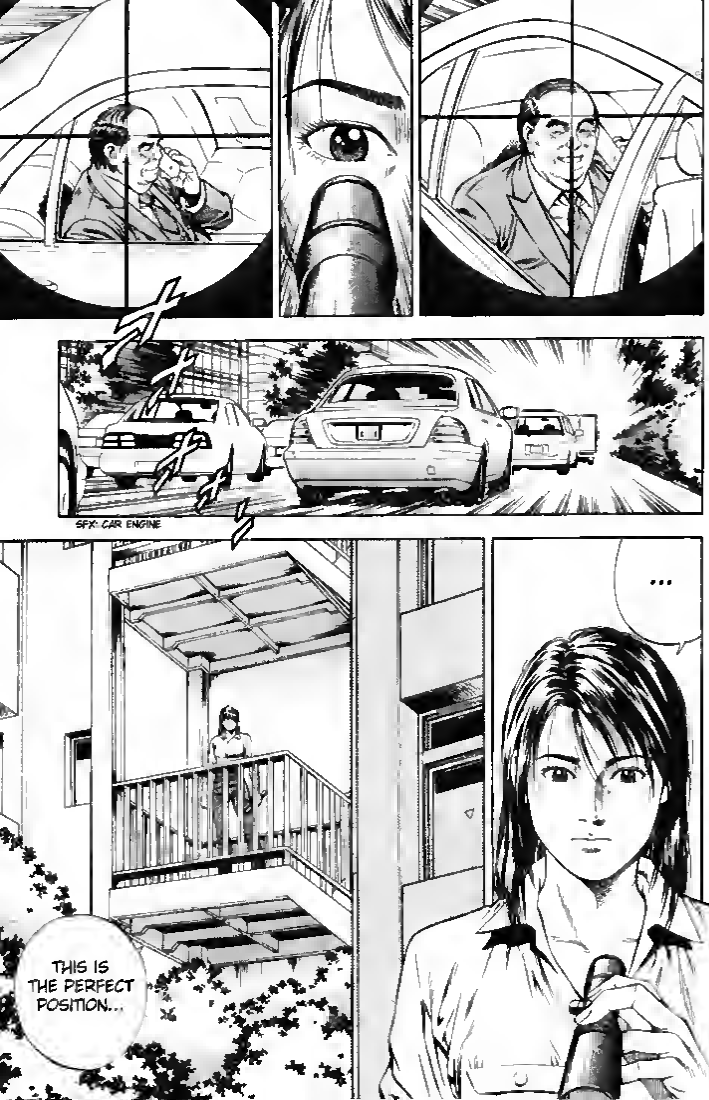

I DID IT! I DID...!
I WAS THERE FOR ALL OF IT! I WAS...
OTHERS... HANDICAPPED FOR LIFE... PARENTS... CRYING... SCREAMING...
I SAW... LOTS OF CHILDREN... LOSE THEIR FRIENDS...
bip
blip
beep
bleep
beep
IRINA... TOLD ME I WAS GOING TO BE A FATHER...
bip
フフ...
THAT WAS WHY YOU TRIED TO EXPOSE IT TO THE MEDIA... IT FAILED, YOU GOT SCARED AND YOU RAN.
I WAS ASHAMED... I FELT GUILTY.. WHAT KIND OF FATHER WOULD I BE?
I BLINDLY FOLLOWED MY ORDERS AND THAT WAS THE RESULT!
SFX: HUMM

YOU WANT TO KILL KISHIMOTO? YOU COULD GO BACK TO IRINA AND TANYA IF HE WAS DEAD.
NO...
I KNOW THAT KISHIMOTO IS STILL DOING THAT SHIT AND I WANT TO STOP HIM. .
BUT I DON'T WANT ANY MORE VICTIMS. I WANT HIM TO UNDERSTAND HOW GRAVE HIS SINS ARE.
IF THIS CASE GOES PUBLIC, YOU'LL STILL BE AN ACCOMPLICE. YOU'LL BE CHARGED JUST THE SAME
YOU DID YOUR RUNNING. IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO PLAY THE HERO. AT LEAST MY WAY YOU CAN STILL GO HOME TO YOUR FAMILY.
PERHAPS. . BUT...

HARD NUT
IT'S TRUE THAT UNTIL NOW I WAS SCARED.. SO SCARED THAT I JUST KEPT RUNNING... BUT IF I CONTINUE .. I'LL NEVER BE A WORTHY FATHER.
WELL, WHATEVER WE'LL NEED TO CLEAN THIS MESS UP BY SATURDAY, RIGHT?
HUH?
OKAY...
WE SHOULD FIND A LITTLE SOMETHING.
SFX: PLOP
SFX: STEP
DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE?
NOTHING
JUST THE PLANS FOR THE SCHOOL WITH THE DISHONEST ORDERS HANDWRITTEN BY KISHIMOTO HIMSELF.

DADDY!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT!
GROWN-UP TALKS TAKE TOO LONG! I'M HUNGRY!
SEE YOU LATER, MR BEAR! BYE-BYE!
...
SFX: KRIK

Toy Land


SFX: CAR ENGINE
...
THIS IS THE PERFECT POSITION...

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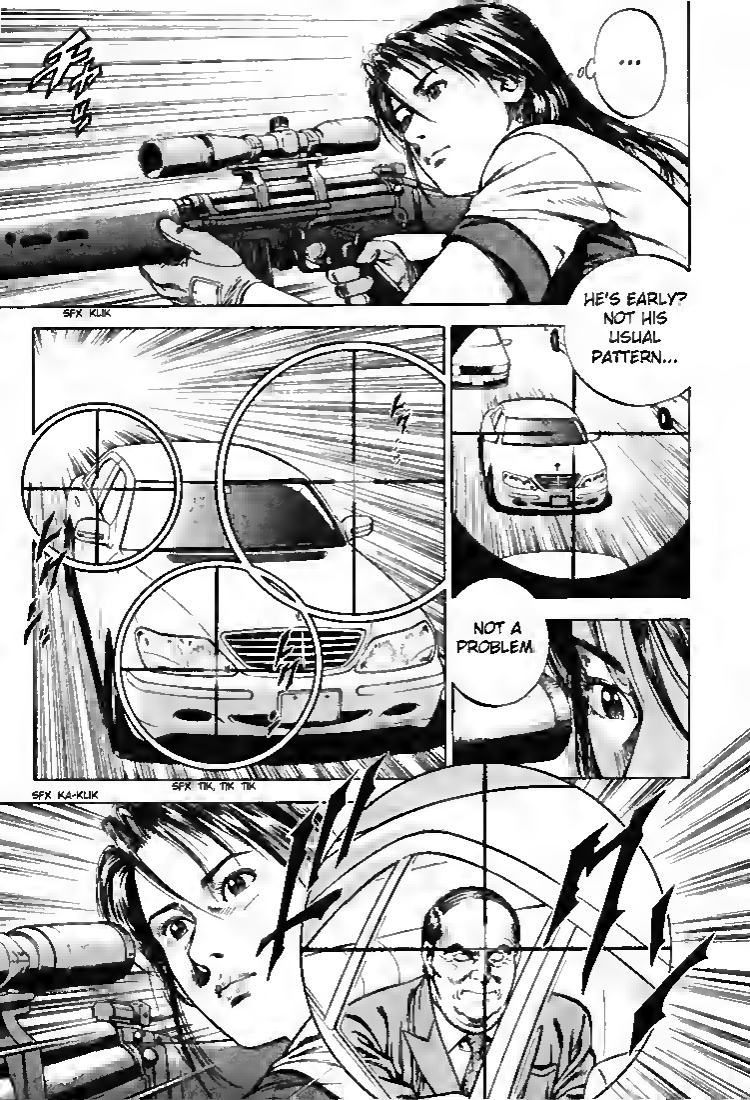
Translator: Albator
Editor: Vicissitude
QC: Eldo
Raws: Stalyn

Chapter 51: The Bear with Balloons

NOTHING TO REPORT...
zip
ONLY 15 MINUTES UNTIL THE TARGET PASSES THROUGH.
8:27
STW
ALM
SURROUNDINGS AND WEATHER CLEAR. NO OBSTACLES IN THE PATH.
ESCAPE ROUTE SECURED...
SFX: CAR ENGINE

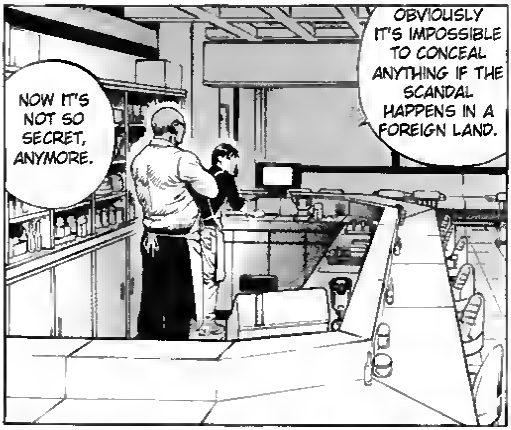

...
SFX KLIK
HE'S EARLY? NOT HIS USUAL PATTERN...
NOT A PROBLEM.
SFX TIK, TIK, TIK
SFX KA-KLIK

SFX RATTLE
SFX SQUEEZE
SFX SHA
SFX SHA
SFX KLIK
SFX TWIK!

SFX: ZOOM
SFX: CAR ENGINE
SFX: TWITCH... TWITCH
...
WHY...?

WHY CAN'T I SHOOT...!?
!!
YOU HAVEN'T COME HOME IN THREE DAYS, YOU LITTLE DELINQUENT.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME!?
THAT'S WHY YOUR BODY REFUSED TO PULL THE TRIGGER.
IF YOU SHOOT, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE THAT FREE LIFE.
YOU'VE BEEN FREED FROM THE CRIMINAL WORLD AND YOU'VE FOUND THE STRENGTH TO LIVE
...
YOUR HEART...
...
YOUR HEART REFUSED TO LET YOU SHOOT...

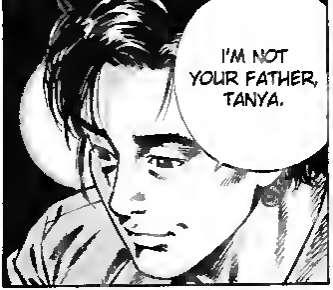
Slap!
I HAVE A BODY...
THAT PREVENTS ME FROM DOING CITY HUNTER'S WORK.
CITY HUNTER'S WORK ISN'T JUST ABOUT SHOOTING PEOPLE.
!!
THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPER FROM TAIWAN...
台灣新報
THEY GIVE A FULL ACCOUNT OF ALL OF KISHIMOTO'S SCHEMES RIGHT ON THE FRONT PAGE, WITH EVIDENCE.
EDITOR'S NOTE: WE HAVE NO TRANSLATION FOR THE NEWSPAPER. JUST PRETEND IT SAYS SOMETHING LIKE "KISHIMOTO CAUSED CRUSHED KIDNEYS!"
THIS NEWS WILL SHAKE EVEN JAPAN'S POLITICAL WORLD. TODAY IS GOING TO BE A VERY PANICKY ONE INDEED.
...


NOW IT'S NOT SO SECRET, ANYMORE.
OBVIOUSLY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCEAL ANYTHING IF THE SCANDAL HAPPENS IN A FOREIGN LAND.
RYO ASKED MR CHEN FOR LI DA-REN TO THROW THE TAIWANESE PRESS.

DADDY?
SIGN: KINDERGARTEN

SO... NOW TANYA'S FATHER WON'T BE THREATENED ANYMORE, RIGHT?
...!

HELLO, TANYA!
HEE HEE!
I KNEW IT. YOU HAD THE WRONG TIME.
11:00? YOU SURE?
"HI?" ARE YOU KIDDING? WHY DID YOU TELL US TO COME SO EARLY? DADDY'S DAY DOESN'T START UNTIL 11:00!
WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN BEING LATE...
DADDY?
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, LET'S GO.
SFX: YANK
SFX: JERK


I'M NOT YOUR FATHER, TANYA.

SORRY, BUT I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER.
WHAT NOW, DADDY?

OH, DADDY. STOP JOKING AROUND!

...

TANYA... YOU KNOW IT, DON'T YOU...?

I SAW THE PICTURE OF YOUR REAL DADDY THAT YOU KEEP PROTECTED IN THERE.
SFX: SHUF
...
SORRY, BUT I PEEKED IN YOUR BAG WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP
HIDE-AND-SEEK WAS ALL A LIE!!
...
IT'S BECAUSE ...
I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING, EVEN THOUGH YOU CAME TO SEE ME.
SFX: SNIFFLES

I KNEW YOU AND MOMMY WERE FRIENDS SO I...
I JUST WANTED A DADDY!
MY DADDY IS PROBABLY DEAD!
MOMMY CRIED ALL THE TIME!
T-TANYA ...!
SO I...
...
IT'S NOT HIDE-AND-SEEK!!
DO YOU KNOW THE FIRST RULE OF HIDE-AND-SEEK?
THE MOUSE MUST ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR THE CAT IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT.
YOU KNOW .. YOUR DADDY ISN'T DEAD
SFX: TFF
...
AND THE BEST PLACE TO HIDE IS USUALLY RIGHT UNDER THE CAT'S NOSE.

BALLOONS?
BALLOONS!
YOU CAN'T GUESS? I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT...
SO, THINK. WHO'S BEEN CLOSE TO YOU SINCE THE BEGINNING?
...
...!
A BALLOON?

THAT'S...
THE BEAR WHO GIVES AWAY THE BALLOONS AT THE MALL?
...
HE-HE'S...!

D-DADDY?
SFX TUG
HELLO, TANYA.
S-STUPID ...
YOU'RE SO STUPID!
YOU FINALLY FOUND ME.

YOU'RE STUPID AND BAD, DADDY!!
STUPID! STUPID! STUPID!
I'M SORRY, TANYA . I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO MUCH.
IRINA . .

アシャン
RYO: AH-SHAN?
...
WHY AM I CRYING FOR THEM? IS... SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH ME...
i...
...
SFX ??? SFX SNIFF
NO... THIS IS A GOOD THING, SHANIN. A VERY GOOD THING.

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Editor: Vicissitude
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Chapter 52 - A Conversation with Kaori

SFX: GUNSHOTS
YEAH. .
SFX: KLINK
Cat's Eye Cafe - Level 2
BUT I DOUBT HE'LL DO ANY TIME.
THERE'S PLENTY OF EXTENUATING CIRUMSTANCES. SAEKA THINKS SO, TOO.
AH, SO KURAHASHI THEN TURNED HIMSELF IN TO THE POLICE?

THEY NOW HAVE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.
PERHAPS, BUT THINGS WILL CALM DOWN AND THEY'LL BE TOGETHER IN THE END.
...
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS TANYA WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER FATHER FOR A WHILE
IF SHANIN HAD PULLED THE TRIGGER BACK THEN ..
AND THE LITTLE GIRL FOUND HER TRUE SMILE, JUST AS SHANIN WISHED IT.
HE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO BACK TO HIS FAMILY, THEN EVEN IF HE COULD, HE WOULD HAVE JUST BEEN DEAD WEIGHT
THIS WHOLE SITUATION WOULD HAVE STILL BEEN A SECRET. KURAHASHI WOULD NEVER HAVE EASED HIS CONSCIENCE
SFX: GUNSHOTS
YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION

...
BUT HER HEART IS STILL CHAOTIC.
SHE'S STILL SHOOTING ACCURATELY.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER? DOES SHE NOT AGREE WITH YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS?
HOW MANY HOURS DOES SHE HAVE TO SHOOT BEFORE SHE CALMS DOWN?

I'M SURPRISED SHE DIDN'T PULL THE TRIGGER..
STILL...
BAH! KIDS ARE SUCH A HASSLE.
...
APPARENTLY, THAT'S NOT IT...
IT'S JUST...

YOU THINK THAT'S IT?
HER UNCONSCIOUS MIND STOPPED HER.

...

YOU WOULD KNOW BEST-.
OVERTRAINED PEOPLE LIKE HER BECOME OF ONE MIND WITH THEIR RIFLES WHEN SHOOTING

TO STOP HERSELF FROM SHOOTING BY SHEER WILL WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR AN ASSASSIN

SFX. GUNSHOTS
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME TO STOP YET?
SHAN-
IIIIIN..

I'M SURPRISED SHE WAS ABLE TO DO IT AT ALL.
COFFEE HOUSE
CAT'S

WELL, I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
...
SFX: CREAK
SFX: TUG
SFX: GUNSHOTS
SFX: SWIP
SFX: BOOM!
SFX: SPARK!

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT..
ヒラ!!
SFX: FLUTTER
ヒラ・・・
SFX: FLOP
YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN STILL SHOOT. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
I UNDERSTAND THAT IT CAN BE A SHOCK, A FORMER ASSASSIN NOT BEING ABLE TO JUST SHOOT THE TARGET.
...

I'M UNABLE TO BE A CITY HUNTER!!
YOU DON'T NEED TO KILL ANYM-
I'LL BE USELESS!
EVEN IF I DON'T NEED TO KILL, IF THINGS TURN UGLY ONE DAY... AND I'M UNABLE TO SHOOT...
...
AND IF I'M NOT ABLE TO DO IT...
I'M NOT WORTHY OF BEING A CITY HUNTER...
SO I'M GOING TO PRACTICE SO IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN!
...
SFX: SLAM!
I TOLD YOU ALREADY.. CITY HUNTER'S WORK IS NOT JUST ABOUT MACHINE-GUNNING
I CAN'T RESOLVE THINGS LIKE YOU CAN, RYO-PAPA!! ALL I KNOW IS GUNS AND KILLING PEOPLE!!

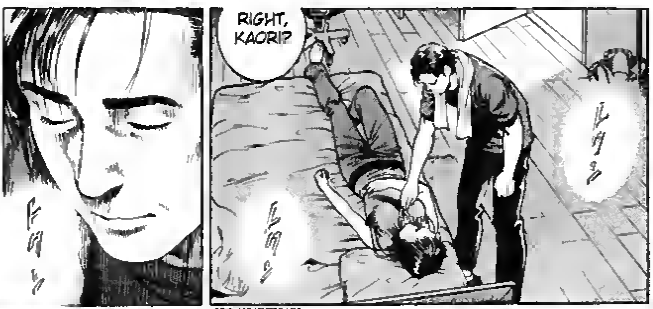
THOSE WERE LEFT BY KAORI WHEN SHE TRIED TO SERIOUSLY HIT A TARGET.
YEAH. . THEY'RE WEIRD.
SFX. POINT
DO YOU SEE THOSE BULLET IMPACTS? HOW DO YOU THINK THEY WERE MADE?
BUT SHE MADE A GREAT CITY HUNTER!
AAAHH!! WAAAHHH! RY-OOOO!!
SHE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT, EITHER
THAT ALONE TELLS YOU JUST HOW USELESS SHE WAS WITH A GUN.
SFX. GUNSHOTS
SHE ONLY KNEW HOW TO USE A HAMMER.
AND EVEN THEN, ONLY ON ME...

WHEN YOU SAW THAT FATHER HUG HIS DAUGHTER, YOU CRIED..
BUT..
...
YOUR HEART IS BIG ENOUGH TO SHED TEARS FOR OTHERS.
YOU HAVE THE SAME BIG HEART AS KAORI.
SFX: PAT
THAT MAKES YOU WORTHY OF BEING A CITY HUNTER.

...
SHANN: BUT...
YOU SHOULD TAKE A SHOWER. IT'LL DO YOU SOME GOOD.
HE-EY! H-SH N!
AH-SHAN ...?

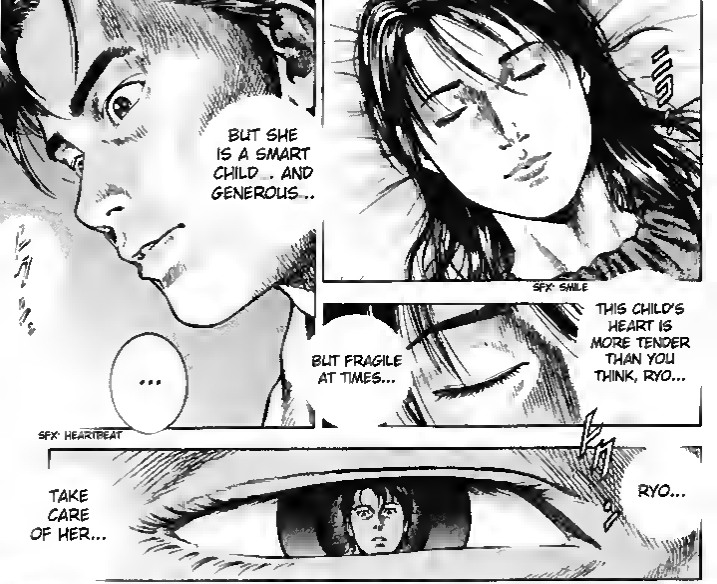
Zzz...
YOU'RE TIRED, I CAN UNDERSTAND.
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO UNDERSTAND RIGHT NOW...
SFX: PFF
SFX: HEARTBEAT
BUT IN TIME .. TIME WILL HELP...
SFX: PAT

SFX HEARTBEAT



SFX HEARTBEATS

K-KAORI!?
トク・・・
SOMEDAY... SHE WILL UNDERSTAND.
SFX HEARTBEAT
TO STOP HERSELF FROM SHOOING BY SHEER WILL WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR AN ASSASSIN.
SFX HEARTBEAT ->
IT WAS YOU! YOU STOPPED HER FROM SHOOTING!
KAORI!
トク・
フッ!


BUT SHE IS A SMART CHILD . AND GENEROUS...
SFX: SMILE
THIS CHILD'S HEART IS MORE TENDER THAN YOU THINK, RYO...
BUT FRAGILE AT TIMES...
...
SFX: HEARTBEAT
RYO...
TAKE CARE OF HER...

TAKE CARE OF...
OUR PRECIOUS DAUGHTER.

KAORI...
...
SFX: HEARTBEATS
KAORI!

...
SFX: DOOR CLOSING

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Translator: Albator
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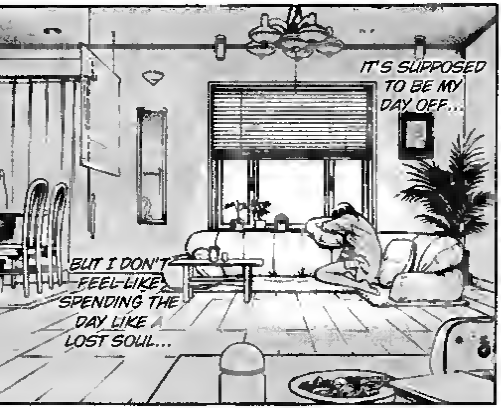
QC: Eldo
Raws: Stalyn

IT'S HER BIRTHDAY!
DID YOU FORGET?
HM... SO WHAT?
HEY, RYO. IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO BE THE 26TH, DOES IT?
...
...?
OOOH, YEAAAH...
...

Chapter 53 Saeko's Birthday

I GUESS I JUST COULDN'T FIND THE TIME... NO... WORK IS PROBABLY A LOUSY EXCUSE...
IT'S MY BIRTHDAY... FUNNY... I STOPPED CELEBRATING IT WHEN I TURNED THIRTY... I WONDER WHY THAT IS...


IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY DAY OFF...
BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE SPENDING THE DAY LIKE A LOST SOUL...

YES... THAT'S RIGHT...

はあ...

SFX: SIGH

EVEN IF I'M A LITTLE OLD FOR PARTIES...
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I THREW A PARTY?

EXCUSE ME, MISS.
I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK IT BOTHERS ME . . I'LL INVITE EVERYONE AND WE'LL HAVE FUN
THOSE BAGS LOOK HEAVY. CAN I HELP YOU?
...
OWN... AGE...
SFX SIGH
WHAT DO YOU THINK, BRAT? IF YOU WANT TO HIT ON GIRLS, FIND ONE YOUR...
IF SAEKO COMES HERE, YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT HER BIRTHDAY!
COFFEE HOUSE
CAT'S EYE
10:00 ~ 18:00
YOU GET IT!?

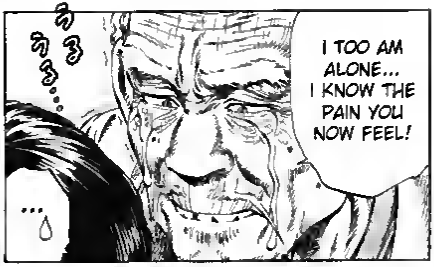
IT'S TRUE. SHE EXPLODED WHEN RYO TRIED TO JOKE ABOUT HER AGE THE OTHER DAY.
WE TRIED TO GET HER IN THE SPIRIT LAST YEAR. SHE GOT MAD AND SAID SHE HAD TOO MUCH WORK TO WASTE HER TIME LIKE THAT, BUT THAT WAS A LIE.
WHEN A WOMAN, LIKE SAEKO, REACHES A CERTAIN AGE, HER AGE BECOMES A... TOUCHY SUBJECT. IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE WE LAST CELEBRATED HER BIRTHDAY.
...WHY?
オホン
SFX: AHEM
UNDER-STOOD!
WORDS LIKE 'SINGLE' AND 'WEDDING' ARE SIMILARLY PROHIBITED
...
WELL...
NOT REALLY, BUT IF IT'S FOR SAEKO...
OH, NO, PLEASE DON'T. I CAN CARRY THIS JUST FINE!
RYO: EEP!
SFX: DOOR OPEN

GOT IT?
GOT IT!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO NICE WHEN I'M JUST INSULTING YOU!?
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT OTHERS' KINDNESS WITH ALL YOUR HEART!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON, SAEKO?
SFX: CLUNK
OH, SUCH CHARACTER TO STAY SO STRONG, NO DOUBT...
I'M NEITHER DESPERATE NOR TIRED OF EVERYTHING! IS THAT CLEAR!?
ALRIGHT, YOU TWO CALM DOWN
REALLY, THIS WOMAN CAPTAIN...
NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL!
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE LOADED FOR BEAR! YOU COULD HAVE A PARTY WITH ALL THESE THINGS.
SO TIRED THAT I COULDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE OUR ENERGETIC YOUNG CAPTAIN!
I ONLY WANTED TO HELP! SHE WAS LOADED DOWN WITH THOSE BAGS AND FROM BEHIND, SHE LOOKED LIKE A DESPERATE WOMAN TIRED OF EVERYTHING

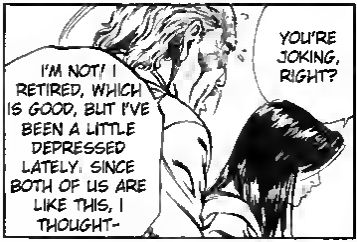
ARE YOU CELECRATING SOMEONE'S BIRTHDAY?
I'M FREE TO DO WHAT I WANT...
SFX: BOOM!
IS IT YOUR HUSBAND'S BIRTHDAY, OR PERHAPS YOUR CHILD?
CH-CHEN!!
SFX: SWOOSH
CH-CHEN?
WHA..?
NO...
HUH?
N-NO, RYO, TODAY IS ..
SAEKO IS A VERY BUSY WOMAN! SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR SHOPPING, SO WHEN SHE DOES, SHE BUYS IN BULK!
I'M. SINGLE.

DID THEY...?
B-BUT, IT'S...
HUH?
YES, YOU REALLY DO WORK A LOT!
RIGHT, SAEKO!? WORK IS TOUGH!
ABOUT MY BIRTHDAY...
THEY... THEY FORGOT...
YES, WELL... IT'S MY DAY OFF.
YES, IT'S RATHER RARE TO SEE YOU THIS TIME OF DAY!
SINGLE...?
...
SFX: GLASS SHATTER
REALLY? THEN WHY ARE YOU COMING IN ON YOUR DAY OFF INSTEAD OF SOMEWHERE HAVING FUN?

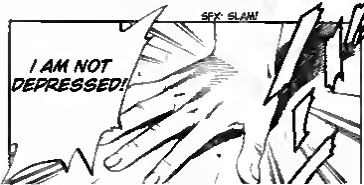
WHERE ON EARTH COULD I GO TO HAVE FUN BY MYSELF...?
SORRY! SORRY!
SFX: BOP BOP BOP
ALONE...
ARE YOU REALLY ALONE?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
SFX: PAT
SFX: SHUCK
CHEN!!
I SEE... THAT MUST BE WHY YOU LOOKED SO DESPERATE FROM BEHIND!
HE'S GOT TO BE KIDDING...
SFX: SOBBING
SFX: SHUDDER
SFX: GULP!



SFX: GRR


YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?
I'M NOT! I RETIRED, WHICH IS GOOD, BUT I'VE BEEN A LITTLE DEPRESSED LATELY. SINCE BOTH OF US ARE LIKE THIS, I THOUGHT-

SFX: SLAM!



HMM...
THIS IS GETTING SURREAL...
PRECISELY! I LIKE A YOUNG WOMAN WITH CHARACTER!
STOP MOCKING ME! JUST BEFORE, YOU MADE FUN OF ME FOR HAVING A BAD TEMPER!
YOU CAN'T BE ANY OLDER THAN THIRTY, CORRECT?
SFX. AAAAAAH!!
IN MY EYES, YOU ARE. MORE SO THAN YOU THINK.
OH, I'M NOT THAT YOUNG.. (HOW DID HE FORCE ME TO SAY THIS?)
FORTY YEARS OLD..
ALMOST...
WHAT!? I'M BEING SERIOUS!
OH, COME ON NOW MR CHEN! WHAT A NASTY JOKER YOU ARE!
...
I AM..

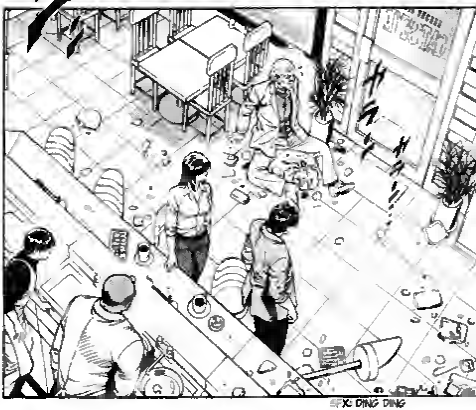
SFX: SHLICK
JAPANESE PEOPLE LOOK YOUNGER THAN THEY REALLY ARE. I PREFER 35-YEAR OLDS OR YOUNGER ESPECIALLY IF YOU WANT KIDS
R-REALLY? NO KIDDING!?
SFX: TSK TSK
WELL, IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD BUT I SHOULD BE GETTING BACK TO MY RESTERAUNT.
SFX: TAP
SFX: VUOMM
..! FIGHTING AURA..
ANYWAY...
SFX: CRIK CRAK

I AM AN ALMOST-FORTY YEAR OLD WOMAN!
OUMP!
SFX: WHUMP
ANYWAY, I...
SFX: BAG CRINKLING
BUT I REFUSE TO HAVE AN OLD GOAT LIKE THIS MAKING FUN OF ME!
SFX: IRRRIP!
A WOMAN WHOSE BIRTHDAY EVERYONE FORGOT, AND FOR WHOM THEY WOULDN'T CELEBRATE EVEN IF THEY REMEMBERED!
SFX: BAGS CRINKLING
EEK!
SFX: STEP STEP

SFX: SLAM!

SA-
SAEKO?
SFX: WIPE

SFX: GRAB


SFX: DING DING

...

SHE WANTED US TO CELEBRATE HER BIRTHDAY...
SHE BOUGHT ALL THIS TO CELEBRATE WITH US...?

I BEG YOUR PARDON?
...
HEY, BOSS...
BAR Kyrie
BAR Kyrie
YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS TODAY?
UH, SURE...
FORGET IT... NOBODY REMEMBERED AT ALL...
SFX: LIFT
SFX: PFF

SAEKO..
WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY...
CHEERS, SAEKO.
SFX. KLINK

WE ALL KNEW, YOU KNOW. TODAY IS...
YEAH, ACTUALLY. THE SHINJUKU YAKUZA THEY THOUGHT IF WE LET YOU GO HOME LIKE THAT, YOU MIGHT QUIT YOUR JOB AND END UP OPENING A LAUNDROMAT.
STUPID...
WHAT...
NO, LET ME GUESS. SOMEONE WROTE YOU AN 'XYZ' MESSAGE? THEY TOLD YOU THERE WAS A SAD, DESPERATE WOMAN YOU NEED TO CHEER UP?
SFX: SITTING DOWN
...
STUPID... THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU.
WE WERE JUST SO SURE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY WE MESSED UP, SAEKO. SORRY.
WHY SO MUCH FUSS OVER A SIMPLE BIRTHDAY? I DON'T GET IT, REALLY...
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO READ WHAT SOMONE HAS IN THEIR HEART... IT TAKES A LOT OF EFFORT TO MANAGE...
AT LEAST I UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH...

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Editor: Vicissitude
QC: Eldo
Raws: Stalyn

Chapter 54 Meeting in a Dream

PAPA?
RYO-PAPA, WHERE ARE YOU?
SFX: WIND
PAPA..
SFX: WIND
MA...
...

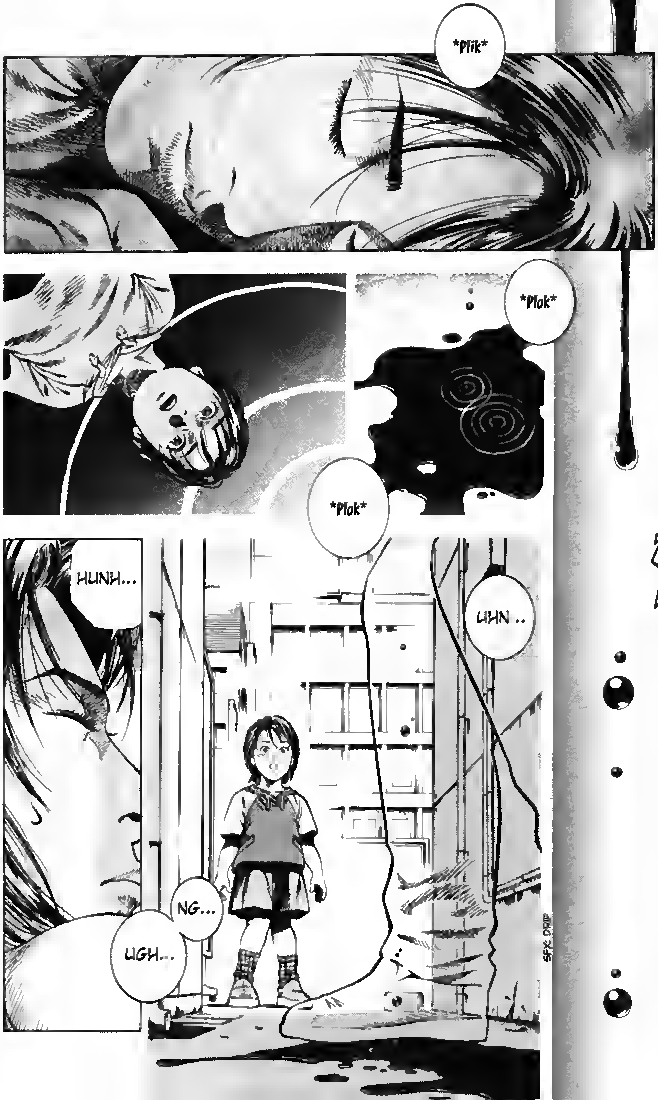
MAMA!!
SFX: GASP!
...
A DREAM?
THAT DREAM...
AGAIN...
...

IT'S VERY STRANGE.
BUT I STILL HAVE ALL MY RECENT MEMORIES.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M A CHILD IN THIS DREAM I MUST BE FIVE YEARS OLD..
...
YOU'RE NOT THERE ANYMORE, RYO-PAPA. AND I WANDER IN TOWN ALONE.
.. OKAY.
BAH, I DOUBT IT'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
I'LL PICK YOU UP AND TAKE YOU HOME WHEN YOU'RE DONE, SO WAIT FOR ME
3F 花園診療所
...
JUST TALK TO THE DOC ABOUT IT DURING YOUR CHECKUP.

ZZZ... *SNRK*
TANYA'S CASE PROBABLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT.
FIVE YEARS OLD.
パルテノン
SFX: RATTLE
WHO-ZAT?
HUH...?
Knock Knock
I'M UP!
SFX: BLOW!
'ZAT YOU, KAORI?

KAORI?
KAORI...
USED TO COME HERE OFTEN?
...
OH...? OH, SHANIN! I'M SORRY, I MUST HAVE BEEN DOZING
YOU DIDN'T KNOW? KAORI USED TO WORK HERE AS AN APPRENTICE NURSE.
THE WAY YOU KNOCKED AND CAME IN, IT WAS JUST LIKE KAORI SO FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT...
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT YOUR AGE WHEN SHE STARTED.
SHE STARTED RIGHT AFTER SHE BEGAN NURSING SCHOOL (IT'S NOT REALLY LEGAL, NORMALLY...).
...

IT'S... PROBABLY THE REASON...
...
YOU KNOW... BEFORE, I USED TO HATE THE SMELL OF HOSPITALS...
REALLY... KAORI USED TO WORK HERE...
?
BUT NOW I LIKE IT... I FEEL STRANGELY NOSTALGIC BECAUSE OF IT.
SFX: FF
ALRIGHT... HAVE YOU FELT ANY UNUSUAL PAINS LATELY, SHANIN?
SFX: DRIP
ピチャアアイン


Plik
Plok
Plok
HUNH...
UHN..
NG...
UGH...
SFX: DRIP

HUH?
SHE WAS WAITING FOR YOU SO LONG, SHE FELL ASLEEP.
HELLO, SHANIN! I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP!
SFX: DOOR OPENING
SHHHH!!
I SAID SHHHH!!
WELL, I HAD SOME EXTRA TIME, SO I WENT TO PACHINKO AND ENDED UP WINNING ALL THIS STUFF!
YEAH, APPARENTLY
SHE TOLD ME SHE'S BEEN HAVING THE SAME DREAM LATELY...
I THINK SHE NEEDS THE REST.
...

HUFF...
UHN...
SFX SCRAPE
SFX THUD
HUFF..
HO-
HUFF..
HUFF..

HE'S SO YOUNG...
RYO-PAPA!?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, RYO-PAPA!? HANG ON!
HUH...?
IT'S JUST BAD LUCK..
IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO MAKE SUCH A MISTAKE...
YOUR HAND!
YOU'RE SHOT!? LET ME SEE!
MOVE...
SFX: TUG TUG
IS THIS THE PLACE?
THE LAST PLACE I'LL SEE? IT'S PROBABLY THE BEST... FOR A GUY LIKE ME...
NO!!

...
WE'LL GET TO THE HOSPITAL!
SFX TUG TUG
AAH!
SFX BUMP
SFX RIP!
HLIFF...
HLIFF
HLIFF...
HELP!!
MY DADDY'S HURT BAD! HE NEEDS HELP OR HE'LL DIE!!

WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL! CALL AN AMBULANCE!
SFX: SWISH
PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU!!
SFX: PWOOP
WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL! PLEASE ..! MY DADDY..!
MY DADDY'S GOING TO DIE!

SFX GRAB
HELP HIM!!
SFX DROP
...
HA.. HA..
I... I FINALLY CALIGHT SOMEONE!

SFX: GRAB
A BULLET WOUND...
...
OH? SO... YOU'RE STILL CONSCIOUS
A STRAY DOG...
I KNOW THAT ALREADY! WE HAVE TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL!!
OF COURSE NOT! HELP HIM!!
THEN ANSWER ME THIS WHILE YOU STILL CAN. DO YOU WANT TO DIE HERE LIKE A STRAY DOG?
SFX: GROAN

HELL...!
G-GO... TO...
SFX UGH
DADDY!!
SFX GROAN
PLEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU! SAVE MY DA-
SFX BUOM!
KA-KAORI!?

A DREAM...?
NO!...COULD THIS BE A MEMORY...?
KAORI'S MEMORY OF HER'S AND RYO-PAPA'S FIRST MEETING TOGETHER...?
SHE'S MUCH YOUNGER, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT...
SHE IS KAORI!

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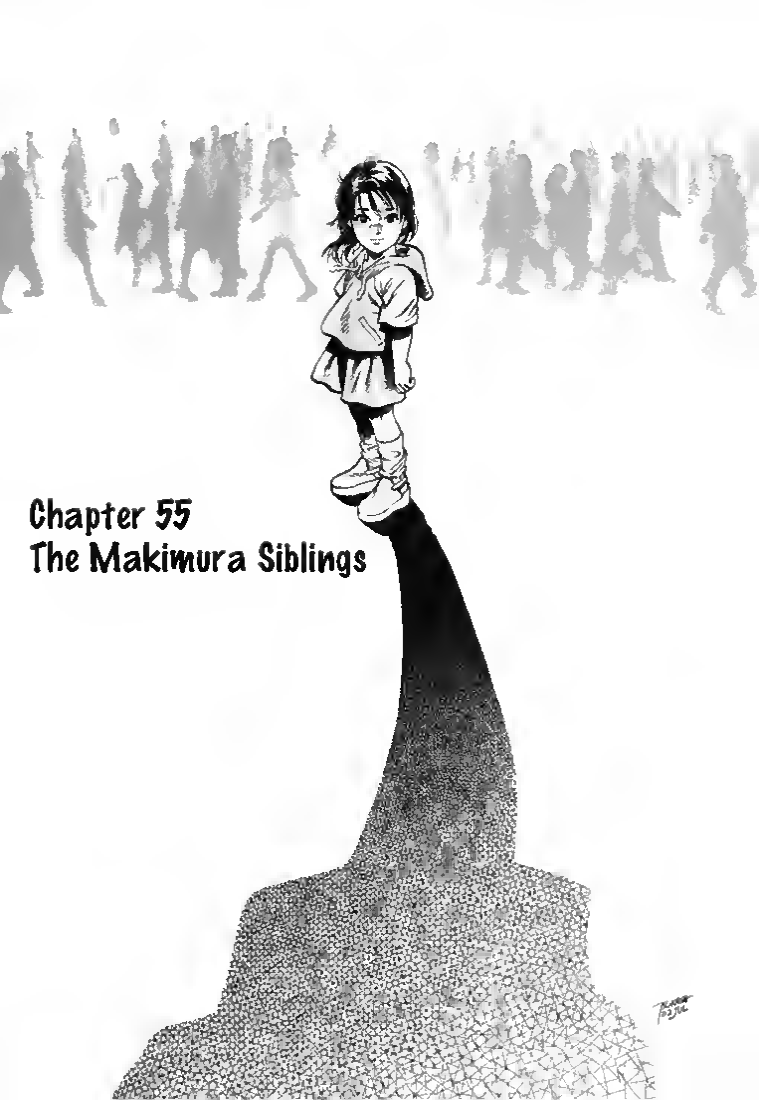


Chapter 55
The Makimura Siblings

SFX: HEARTBEAT
WHAT HAPPENED? SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE...
WELL, HER PULSE HAS SLOWED DOWN, BUT...
SFX: DEEP BREATH
SFX: HEARTBEAT
...
SFX: HEARTBEAT
KAORI...
KA...
AH-SHAN?
...
MAYBE WE SHOULD WAKE HER UP?

SHE'S DREAMING OF KAORI?
...
KAORI?
SFX: HEARTBEAT
KAORI...
SFX: HEARTBEATS
Tok
Tok
Tok
Tok
SFX: HEARTBEATS
Tok
Tok
Tok
Tok
SFX: BUBBLING POT

Tok
Tok
Tok
Tok
Tok
Tok
...
SUCHA NICE WARMTH...

SFX: HUG
...
SFX: CHOPPING
SFX: CHOPPING
IT FEELS SO GOOD HERE.
KAORI...
BRO.
HELLO...

WOULD IT REALLY BE TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR YOU TO CALL ME 'BIG BROTHER' OR SOMETHING?
KAORI...
WHO'S HE...?
SFX: SLUMP
AH.. HELLO...
?
A GIRL LIKE YOU USING THE WORD 'BRO.' IT'S NOT VERY CLASSY.
SFX: GROAN
SFX: FWAP
NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT IT...
ALRIGHT, I'M GOING!
KAORI! HUOP!
I ONLY MADE YOU BREAKFAST, SO AFTER THIS, YOU'LL HAVE TO MANAGE ON YOUR OWN.
HER BROTHER? KAORI HAD A BROTHER...
ANYWAY, I FIND THE WAY YOU TALK TOO-
SFX: FLOP
KAORI!
SORRY, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME!
HERE'S YOUR BREAK-FAST!

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A NURSE?
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS SCHOOL, KAORI?
I CAN PAY FOR BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.
WHAT GOT INTO YOU? YOU ARE SO NOT A MORNING PERSON.
KNOW WHY? BECAUSE EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I NEVER STOPPED LOOKING AFTER YOU, BRO.
TO BE A NURSE AND GIVE FIRST AID!
DO YOU KNOW MY SPECIALITY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE A CAREER SO EARLY...
LATER!
...
I KNOW YOU'RE A COP, BUT YOU GET HURT WAY TOO OFTEN, BRO. BESIDES, IT'S THE ONLY THING I WANT TO DO.

SO, IN OTHER WORDS... IT'S MY FAULT...

...!
...

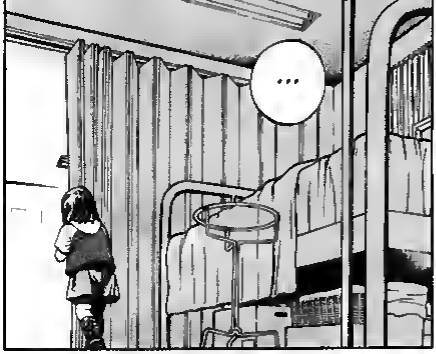
RYO-PAPA!?
"BANG"
...?
WHAT'S THAT?
HEY, KAORI..
SFX: FLAP!
HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE? FAKE! CREDIT CARDS? FAKE! EVERYTHING HE HAS IS FAKE!
HUH?
...?

BRO...?
WHO IS THAT MAN?
THE SAME GOES FOR HIS PASSPORT! EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM IS FAKE!
...
SFX: GROAN
I DON'T EVEN THINK 'RYO SAEBA' IS HIS REAL NAME!
I CAN'T FIND A SINGLE DOCUMENT TO IDENTIFY HIM!
...
HE'S NOTHING LIKE THE YAKUZA AROUND HERE!
I'M WARNING YOU, DOC. THAT MAN'S A DANGER!
OUT OF THE QUESTION!
YOU MUST SURRENDER HIM TO US IMMEDIATELY!
...
SFX: SCRATCH SCRATCH

OUR PATIENT AND NOT YOUR CONCERN!
BUT, KAORI, THAT MAN IS-
HE'S BEEN BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR TWO DAYS! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'LL SURVIVE OR NOT!
HE'S NOT EVEN CONSCIOUS! HANDING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE NOW IS IMPOSSIBLE.
KAO-
SFX: DOOR OPENING
...
WITH A TEMPER LIKE THAT, SHE'LL NEVER GET A MAN
-RI ..
SFX: SLAM!
TO GET OUT IN IT AND NOT STAY HERE HER WHOLE LIFE..
I WANT HER TO SEE THE OUTSIDE WORLD..
HER WORLD IS TOO NARROW...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HER CHOOSE TO WORK IN SUCH A PLACE, SURROUNDED BY YAKUZA, EVEN BEFORE GETTING HER NURSING DEGREE.
I JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T END UP WORKING IN SUCH A PLACE AD VITAM ETERNAM...
AD VITAM ETERNAM: 'FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE' THANKS LATIN!
ALTHOUGH... SHE CHOSE HER PATH WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING ME...
SFX: WATER SPLASHING
N-NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN SUCH A PLACE?
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO PICK A JOB THIS HARD...
SHE'S ONLY SEVENTEEN... SINCE IT'S ALWAYS JUST BEEN THE TWO OF US, SHE NEVER REALLY HAD MUCH FREEDOM...
...
SFX: SCRUBBING

...!?
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S DOING THIS FOR YOU?
MAKIMURA
...
YOU'RE THE ONLY FAMILY SHE HAS.
I KNOW YOU'RE A COP, BUT YOU GET HURT WAY TOO OFTEN, BRO
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I NEVER STOPPED LOOKING AFTER YOU, BRO.
SO MAYBE THE REASON SHE WANTS TO BE A NURSE IS SO SHE CAN PROTECT YOU IN HER OWN WAY.
SFX
...
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON THAT SHE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LOSE.

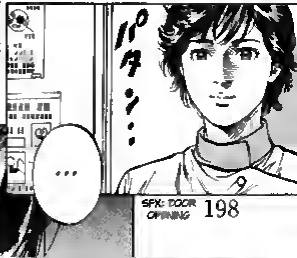

...

SO IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF ME...
IT'S FOR ME..!

ZZ...
SO THIS NURSE... IS A COP'S SISTER... EH..?
SFX: SNORING

KAORI...
HM?

GOING HOME ALREADY, BRO?
SFX: CLICK


...
SFX: DOOR OPENING

YOU'RE REALLY GETTING A LOT BETTER.
IT WAS DELICIOUS..
BREAK-FAST, I MEAN...
...
OOO-KAY. WEIRDING ME OUT, HERE..
SFX DOOR CLOSING
...
ALL THIS... FOR ME...
STUPID...

SFX. SHARP INHALE

SFX. HNN...

SFX. HAHA...

SFX. KRSSH

SFX HNN!
MURDEROUS AURA!?
SFX SHINK
RYO... PAPA...?
HE DOESN'T TRUST ANYBODY... HE CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY... EVERYONE AROUND HIM IS AN ENEMY!
HE'S JUST LIKE ME...JUST LIKE ME WHEN I ARRIVED IN SHINJUKU...
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT AT FIRST...
RYO-PAPA WANTS TO KILL KAORI?!
NO WAY...
To Be Continued...

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